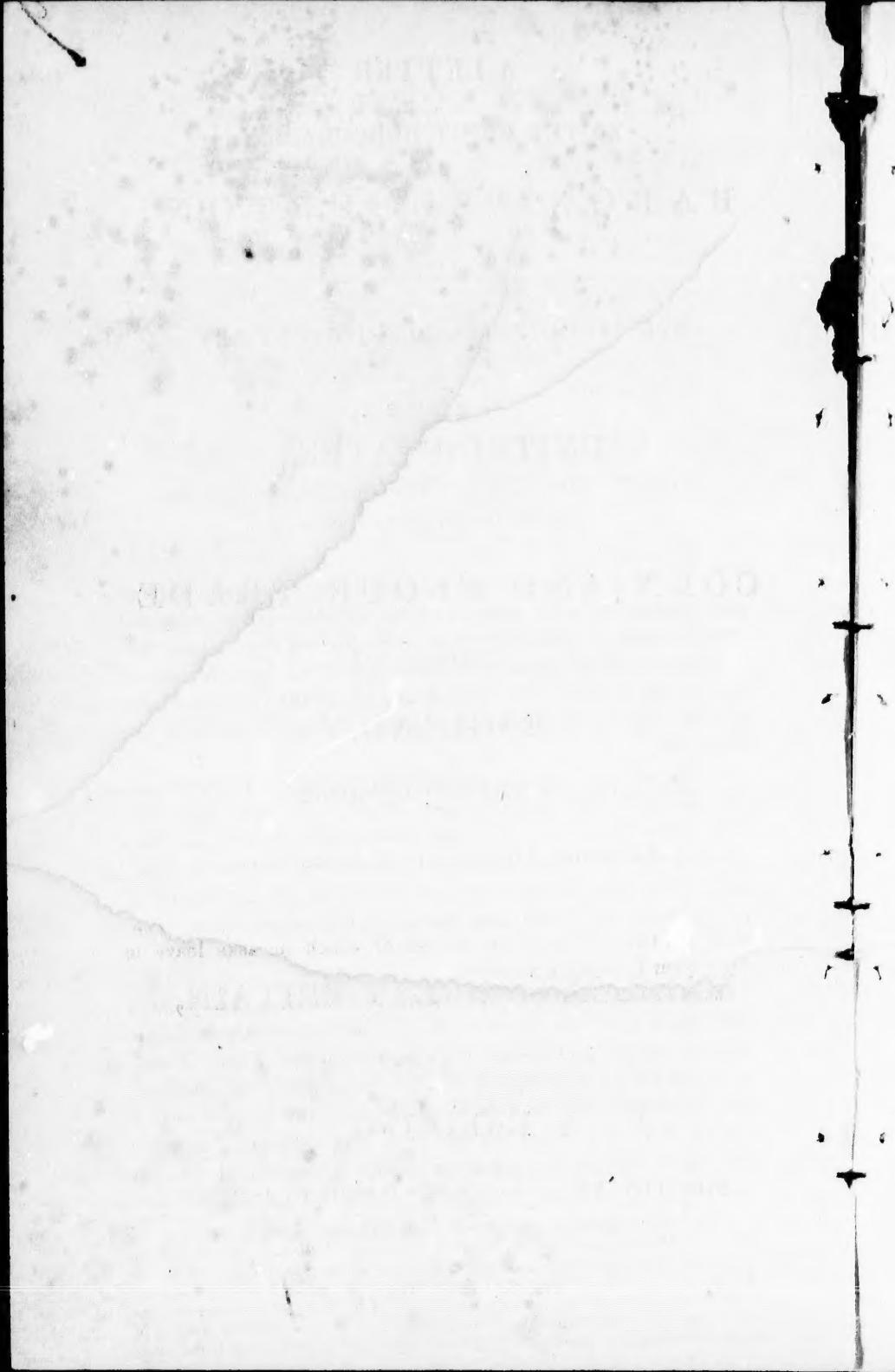


A LETTER  
TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
**BARON ASHBURTON,**  
HER MAJESTY'S  
SPECIAL MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY  
TO THE  
**UNITED STATES;**  
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE  
**CORN AND FLOUR TRADE**  
WITH  
**ENGLAND,**  
VIA THE RIVER ST. LAWRENCE:  
*And on the Advantages to be Derived from*  
INTRODUCING  
**MAIZE INTO GREAT BRITAIN,**  
AS A CHEAP ARTICLE OF  
**FOOD**  
FOR THE POOR AND LABOURING CLASSES.

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NEW-YORK : 1842.



LETTER  
TO THE  
RIGHT HON. LORD ASHBURTON, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,—

HER Majesty's Government having with great wisdom and humanity deputed your Lordship to come hither with the Olive Branch, to endeavour to arrange the differences now unhappily subsisting between the two countries—it is the duty of every lover of peace and concord to pray for the success of your mission, and to contribute their efforts, however feeble, to the same end.

In the course of your Lordship's negotiations with the American Government, it will doubtless be a part of your Lordship's duty to dwell upon the advantages that two great commercial People must derive from a prolonged intercourse with each other; and it has occurred to the writer of these pages, that other important branches of trade may yet be opened for the mutual benefit of the two nations, to one or two of which he asks leave to draw your Lordship's attention.

Your Lordship is perhaps aware, that within a few years, a large branch of trade has created itself by almost imperceptible degrees, on the Northern Frontier—consisting of Flour, Wheat, and other Grain, exported to the British North American Colonies; and so extensive has this trade become, that during the last year it amounted to nearly four millions of dollars in value. A writer who appears to have paid some attention to this subject, observes:—

"We have on two or three occasions alluded to this trade—pointed out its value, its great increase, and consequent importance. We have shown that in consequence of Canada wheat and flour being admitted into the ports of Great Britain at a low rate of duty, the bulk of those articles raised in Canada were exported to England, and the deficiency made up by imports of similar articles from the United States, to supply the home consumption:—and we have also hinted that possibly some part of the imported articles may have found their

way to England, via the St. Lawrence, under the denomination of Colonial products, but we had no conception of its magnitude until the official returns were promulgated."

He then proceeds :—

" We have before us a copy of the Treasury Report, containing a statement of the commerce and navigation of the United States. These statistical documents are of immense value, if properly used, in exhibiting the development of commerce and industry, with the relative importance of each department of business.

In looking over this document we were struck with a fact which we think will surprise our readers as much as ourselves. It is this : The navigation, or the tonnage between the United States and the British possessions in America, is one third of the whole tonnage of the United States. Of this, more than two-thirds, or nearly one-fourth of the whole tonnage of the United States, is with the Canadas. The results are thus :—

Whole tonnage entering the ports of the United States, . . . . .	2,289,309
Entering from British America, . . . . .	761,096
From Canadas, . . . . .	535,461

Great as is our trade with England, the tonnage required to carry it on is less than that engaged in the lake commerce with the Canadas. Thus :

Entered from England, tons . . . . .	496,773
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The immense value of fine goods in proportion to their weight, explains why the value of importations from England is so much greater in proportion to the tonnage employed.

That the trade with the British Possessions in America is a valuable one, in a commercial point of view, we may gather from the state of the account :

Value of Imports . . . . .	\$2,007,767
"    Exports . . . . .	6,093,250

Nearly *four millions* of the above exports consisted of wheat flour and bread stuffs.

From this it appears that the export of farinaceous food from the United States to the Provinces exceeds in value four millions of dollars annually ! employing a tonnage equal to one-third of the whole foreign tonnage of the United States; while the imports in return from the same Provinces only amount to \$2,000,000.

Now as the rapidly increasing population of the British Isles must produce a corresponding increase of demand for such articles, it follows that this trade with Canada must increase also. As the finest and most extensive wheat districts of the United States, viz., the northern parts of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and other States bordering upon the great Lakes, are fast coming into cultivation ; as the large sums voted in Canada for internal improvements will be mainly expended upon the great highway of the lakes and the St. Lawrence, so as to enable a vessel to take in her cargo at Chicago, and hoist it on board a vessel lying at Montreal or Quebec without any trans-shipment—it is evident that American wheat and flour will reach England cheaper by that route than any other, and that it must ere long be the great channel for that species of commerce. The bulkiness of the ar-

ticles, the proximity of the country producing them, the course of the waters, and the force of gravity, render this inevitable.

If natural causes which human agency cannot control give the carrying trade to British vessels on the homeward voyage, natural causes will also give the return trade to American vessels; for the St. Lawrence being closed by ice until May, must of necessity send all the Spring importations to New York and Boston in March and April, from whence they will be transmitted by railroad and steamboat to the far west, and reach their destination before any vessel can penetrate to Quebec.

The importance of this trade is not sufficiently estimated by the American merchant; nor do we believe that it is sufficiently understood at Washington. If the American exports to the provinces amount to six million dollars annually, now that the trade is in its infancy, what will it be when it has ripened or advanced further to maturity? Without undertaking to say whether American wheat, which passes over the lines, goes to England under the denomination of Canada wheat, or whether it be eaten on the spot, and the Canada article exported—it is sufficient to know that the American farmer finds a sale for his produce, to the amount stated. The population of Canada is about one million of souls, making the imports of American bread stuffs equal to four dollars each per annum. It is the policy of the Mother Country to augment the population of those provinces by emigration; and we should not be surprised to see the number of inhabitants doubled in a few years, and creating a demand of twelve million dollars worth of American produce. Can any merchant or politician look upon such a prospect unmoved? And ought it not to convince him of the urgent necessity of preserving peace between the two countries?

Let us look at the subject in another point of view. Of what do the croakers of American prosperity chiefly complain? Why, that the balance of trade with England is against this country; and hence the high rate of exchange. "We have nothing," say they, "but cotton, tobacco, and the other staples of the South to pay our enormous annual debt to England; the North has nothing she can export, to pay her bills in Manchester, Birmingham, &c." Admitting this to have been true heretofore, the complaint no longer exists, for the wheat of the lake countries does now actually constitute a *staple export of the North* amounting to six millions of dollars annually, and will, ere long, double, and perhaps treble that amount.

Nor do Bread Stuffs constitute the only article of export to these Colonies. Horses, Horned Cattle, Pork, &c., form other and additional exports to a very great extent.

Besides these, a new class of exports, consisting of agricultural implements, churns, buckets, &c., and in short, all articles of which wood forms a principal constituent part, are sent largely into Canada, as will appear from the following table:—

*The Port of Rochester.*—But few of our citizens, we apprehend, are aware of the extent and importance of the trade carried on between this city and Canada. We have reverted to it occasionally during the past season; and since the close of navigation have been at some pains to ascertain as nearly as possible, the amount of business done. We have compiled from the Custom House records, the following table of exports. We state merely the value of the different articles, without giving the quantity:

Flour.....	valued at.....	\$220,000
Pork .....	" .....	8,200
Stoves.....	" .....	5,800
Tallow .....	" .....	10,200
Live Stock.....	" .....	3,000
Machinery.....	" .....	7,000
Sundries and articles not enumerated.....		400,000
	Total.....	\$654,200

The "sundries and articles not enumerated," consist of such a quantity and variety of products that it is almost impossible to make a correct estimate. They consist of tobacco, cigars, cheese, cider, candles, iron, hollow-ware, farming utensils, pot and pearl ashes, cabinet ware, threshing machines, groceries, and many kinds of raw produce. The estimates made upon these articles above, we are assured by a person most conversant with the trade, are very low.

Thus it will be seen that the trade direct from this port to Canada, amount to more than six hundred thousand dollars yearly.

The importance and extent of this trade is beginning to be seen by the American frontier press generally; and I will, for your Lordship's information, add one or two other extracts confirmatory of my own statements:—

*Canada Trade.—Important Facts.*—Last year Port Stanley, on Lake Erie, and two other shipping places a few miles from it, exported 86,000 bushels of wheat, 2000 barrels of Flour, and 1400 of Pork, and imported 5400 barrels of Salt, and 3000 tons Merchandise. Twenty years ago, there was scarcely 500 bushels exported at these places.

Last year there were transported through the Welland Canal, from U. S. to U. S. Ports, 946,142 bushels of Wheat and 11,250 barrels of Flour—and from United States to Canadian ports, 88,964 bbls. Flour, 22,307 of Pork, and 367,261 bushels of Wheat—also from Canadian ports on Lake Erie and Niagara District to Canadian ports on Lake Ontario, 120,893 barrels of Flour, 514 bbls. of Pork, and 260,935 bushels of Wheat.

The amount of American salt imported by Canada during the past season, is estimated by a writer in the *Toronto Patriot* at 18,000 barrels.—*Rochester Evn. Post.*

The Detroit Daily Advertiser offers the following observations. They show not only a vast increase in the Grain Trade with Canada, but in the Provision Trade also:—

The Grain Trade with Canada from Michigan and various other states, has been increasing with great rapidity. Nor is it confined to grain—provisions of all kinds enter into it largely. We cannot, of course, give any accurate estimate of its present amount, but in 1840, the total value of the exports to Canada, from the United States, was \$4,296,405. Among the articles were wheat, 1,066,604 bushels—flour, 432,356 barrels—Indian corn, 130,747 bushels—pork, 38,863 barrels—hams, 138,611 lbs—lard, 102,711 lbs., in all which, Michigan is directly interested. The amount exported in 1841, is estimated to have been three times as much, and we know that in Michigan, at least, there will be an immense increase the present year. The ware houses in this city are loaded down with meat and flour stored for the Canadian market, and the same we understand to be true at all the principal grain points in the state. Purchases have been making all winter on Canadian account, and this outlet for the coming crop has been confidently looked to by our Michigan farmers, as one of the main inducements to an extensive cultivation. Within a week or two, we saw a communication in an interior paper, in which the writer sought to revive the spirits of the wheat growers by dwelling upon this new market.

Now, my Lord, what stronger evidence or further proofs do we require of the vast benefits to be derived from this great and growing intercourse? It is a trade that does not require high duties and bounties for its protection—it does not require even the fostering hand of Government—it only requires to be left to itself. It has created itself by the force of circumstances, and, if unmolested, will go on increasing and multiplying to an indefinite extent, to the inconceivable advantage of the American producer and the British consumer. If unmolested, we say, we know not where to fix limits to its magnitude. The entire lake frontier for a thousand miles will teem with the golden fields of harvest, the produce of which, the hungry but industrious artizan of Manchester and Birmingham will readily purchase when brought to his door, and pay for it in the articles of his own skill and industry. If England can be supplied with food from Canada and the North-Western States of the American Union at a cheap rate, to an indefinite extent, and can pay for it in the products of her labour—her increasing population is no longer formidable, for additional millions may yet be retained on her surface without the dangers that have been apprehended from a redundant and surcharged population.

That America should supply England with food is natural enough, because one abounds in fertile soil and the other with population; but we give the preference to the supply passing through Canada for the following reasons:—

- 1st. Because the St. Lawrence is the natural outlet for all bulky articles from that part of the North American Continent.
- 2nd. Because from the rates of duty on the frontier and in England, wheat enters the ports of Great Britain by this route under very superior advantages.
- 3rd. Because when the Welland Canal becomes enlarged, and

the impediments in the St. Lawrence removed, the navigation from the upper lakes to Montreal and Quebec—the ports of shipment—will be so easy, that flour and grain may be transmitted thither, and shipped at a lower rate than at any other port on this Continent.

4th. Because by this operation, Great Britain can give admission to the American products on terms more favourable and exclusive than if her ports were opened generally to all nations. And it is advantageous to offer this favour to America, because America will take British goods in exchange.

It is often said that Great Britain should at once throw open her ports to Foreign Grain at low or nominal duties; and the advocates of the tariff in this country urge the imposition of high duties here, in retaliation for high duties in England. In some respects it might be advantageous to Great Britain to do so, but we are by no means sure that it would be so to the United States; for the moment a repeal of the duties on Foreign Grain generally, took place, British capital and British Agricultural skill, would be transferred to different parts of Europe, to put waste lands into cultivation for the supply of the English Market. There is no want of spare land on the Continent, and that, too, of the best quality for Wheat; and labour, that great item in a farmer's expenditure, is cheap and abundant. Prolific and abundant as are the Wheat lands of Genessee, Michigan, &c., they could not, from the high price of human labor, compete with the Continent of Europe, where the hire of a daily labourer is perhaps not over sixpence sterling a day, and the voyage from thence to England not one third of the length of the voyage from America. These two very superior advantages of cheap labour and short voyages must, inevitably, give the preponderance to the Continental produce in the English Market, over the American, whenever the capabilities of the two are brought fairly into competition. Even as it is, when the foreign demand is so comparatively small and uncertain—when the system of Agriculture is so imperfect and unscientific—and when there is so little inducement for the Continental husbandman to produce more than sufficient to supply the home demand—we find the prices of wheat in many parts of Europe to be *lower* than they are at New York. And how much more would this be the case if the stimulus of demand and the invigorating influence of British skill and capital, were brought to bear upon such advantageous elements of production?

The following tables will throw light on this point.

## PRICES OF WHEAT ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

Prepared by Edwin Williams.

Average prices of Wheat in the principal Grain Markets of Europe, in the year 1840, ascertained by the British Consuls at the ports named.

	Price per quarter.	Per bushel.	Freight per bushel to England.
St. Petersburg, .....	39s. 1d.	\$1,17	15 cts.
Riga, .....	49 7	1,49	14
Liebau, .....	43 7	1,31	15
Odessa, (Black Sea)....	26 6	80	30
Dantzig, .....	36	1,08	12
Stockholm, .....	30	90	13
Konigsberg, .....	40	1,20	15
Stettin, .....	40	1,20	13
Memel, .....	35	1,05	13
Elsinore, .....	30	90	12
Hamburg, .....	35	1,05	12
Rotterdam, .....	55	1,65	07
Antwerp, .....	56 5	1,69	07
Palermo, (Sicily), .....	38	1,14	25

N. B. All of the above Ports it will be observed, are in the North of Europe, except Odessa and Palermo. Some of the prices given above are the average for a series of years; others are the lowest rates in a single year. The average of the above prices is 40s. 6d. per quarter or \$1,31 $\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel, and the average freight to England is about 15 cents per bushel. This would make the actual average cost delivered in England 45s. 4d. per quarter, or \$1,46 $\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel without duties. It appears that Grain is cheaper in Russia than any other part of Europe. The prices in 1835 in the government of Tamboff, were for Wheat, 13s. 6d. to 14s. 1d. per quarter. (40 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 42 cents per bushel,) Rye 7s. 1d. to 7s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per quarter, (22 cents per bushel,) Oats 4s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per quarter, (14 to 16 cents per bushel.) The expenses to St. Petersburg were about 50 percent on Wheat, and above 100 per cent on Rye and Oats.

The average price of Wheat in France in the year 1836 was 39s. per quarter, or \$1,17 per bushel, and the average of prices from 1819 to 1836 was 40s. 1d. per quarter, or \$1,20 per bushel of 60 lb. The average price in England in 1836 was 48s. 6d. per quarter, or \$1,44 $\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel; in 1841 64s. 6d. or \$1,93 $\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel.

The following are recent quotations of prices of Wheat and Flour in the United States and Canada:—

		Wheat per bushel.	Flour per bbl., 196lbs.
United States.	New York, April 26, 1842.	\$1,25	\$6,00
	Philadelphia, " 23, "	1,20	5,75
	Baltimore, " 23, "	1,18	5,62 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Fredericksburg, 18, "	1,10	5,50
	Richmond, " 18, "	1,10	5,75
Canada.	Detroit, " 19, "	.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,37 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Montreal, " 29, "	1,30	7,00
	Toronto, " 23, "	1,00	5,00

The average prices of freight to England from the above ports may be estimated at 20 cents per bushel for Wheat, and 60 to 75 cents per barrel for Flour.

I am fully aware that these statements will take many persons by surprise, but their truth, I aver, will stand the test of any investigation.

But these objections melt away if the British duties remain as they are, and we avail ourselves of the Canada route for transmitting the article to England.

What I have said on Wheat and Flour is equally applicable, for the most part, to other Provisions.

It was to be apprehended that in the course of the Corn Law revision, this trade through Canada would be either interrupted or trammelled with heavy duties; but it is satisfactory to observe that the new tariff, as brought before Parliament by Sir Robert Peel, imposes a duty of only three shillings a quarter on wheat so introduced—a duty too small to check its transit to England, but at the same time affording a moderate protection to the poor Canadian emigrant farmer, who is struggling against all the difficulties of a new country and a cold climate. The imposition of this small duty, in fact, legalizes a trade that was previously of a questionable character. That this duty cannot be any check to trade, as some have imagined, even when the duty on wheat from Canada is superadded, is shown from the following table of the new scale of duties. The duty on Canada wheat, when entering British ports it may be premised will be five shillings, until the averages rise to 58 shillings, when it will fall to one shilling per quarter. American wheat passing the frontier will pay three shillings, making a total duty on that article of eight shillings in one case, and four in the other:—

TABLE OF NEW DUTIES ON FOREIGN AND COLONIAL WHEAT.

When the averages are under 51s.	duty shall be for every qr.	20s. 6d.	Old Duty		
			On Foreign.	On Colonial.	on Foreign
51s. and under 52s.	19s. 0	5	35	8	
52s. and under 53s.	18s. 0	5	34	8	
53s. and under 54s.	18s. 0	5	33	8	
54s. and under 55s.	17s. 0	5	32	8	
55s. and under 56s.	16s. 0	4	31	8	
56s. and under 57s.	15s. 0	3	30	8	
57s. and under 58s.	14s. 0	1	29	8	
58s. and under 59s.	13s. 0	1	28	8	
59s. and under 60s.	12s. 0	1	27	8	
60s. and under 61s.	11s. 0	1	26	8	
61s. and under 62s.	10s. 0	1	25	8	
62s. and under 63s.	9s. 0	1	24	8	
63s. and under 64s.	8s. 0	1	23	8	
64s. and under 65s.	7s. 0	1	22	8	
65s. and under 66s.	6s. 0	1	21	8	
66s. and under 67s.	6s. 0	1	20	8	
67s. and under 68s.	6s. 0	1	18	8	
68s. and under 69s.	5s. 0	1	16	8	
69s. and under 70s.	4s. 0	1	13	8	
70s. and under 71s.	3s. 0	1	10	8	
71s. and under 72s.	2s. 0	1	6	8	
72s. and under 73s.	1s. 0	1	2	8	
73s. and upwards			1	0	

The price of wheat in England on the 18th April last, was 59 shillings, consequently Canada wheat would be admissible at the lowest rate of duty, or one shilling per quarter, while foreign wheat

would be paying 13 shillings per quarter. This is alone sufficient to show the great superiority of the route by the St. Lawrence; and should the new act not require any certificate of colonial origin for wheat so imported, it is easy to foresee how extensive this trade must shortly become. This aspect of the case is of the deepest importance to all the northwestern states—for these and Canada must hereafter be the granaries of England for her foreign supply of bread.

Now, my Lord, this shows no insignificant trade; and it is the more important to the United States, because it is constantly increasing; and because it constitutes what the Northern States have long wanted, viz., *exports of Northern productions*; and if not interrupted bids fair to rival some of the great Southern staples. The advantage of such a trade ought to be fully understood by the Statesmen of both countries, and I have therefore ventured to call your Lordship's attention to it.

I now my Lord proceed to the second branch of the subject, viz:—

*The advantages to be derived from introducing the MAIZE into Great Britain as a cheap article of food for the Poor and Working classes.*

A relaxation of the British Corn Laws, now happily in progress, promises a large addition to the trade of the two countries; but I have long been of opinion that it was a desideratum to throw into Great Britain *a cheaver article of food than wheat, or any of the grains now in use.* For I do not see how a man, earning eight or ten shillings a week, can feed a family of as many children with wheaten bread at the price it must necessarily be, even at the new and reduced scale of duties. Such an article is to be found in this country, and its introduction would be an important auxiliary to trade, and would prove a blessing to the poor and the labouring classes of the three Kingdoms.

The article to which I allude is the Maize or Indian Corn, which grows so abundantly in this country. As you well know, it is cheap, palatable, wholesome, and nutritious in an eminent degree; and you also know with what profusion it could be supplied from this country if there were a steady demand for it, and how easy it would be for England to pay for it, as all its growers here are lovers and consumers of British manufactures.

Cobbett attempted to introduce it into England by cultivation; but the climate of Great Britain is too cold to bring it to perfection, and therefore his experiments failed. It requires the dry

atmosphere and ardent sun of America and other warm climates to ripen it fully.

Maize, or Indian Corn, is the farinaceous food in general use in the rural districts of the United States. Upon it, children thrive and adults labour, without the assistance of wheat. It is prepared in an infinite variety of ways—in cakes, in puddings, in the form of bread, &c. &c., and possesses a superiority to barley in powers of sustenance, in flavour, and in expansibility during the process of cooking. It can be sold at the port of shipment at half a dollar per bushel; its freight across the Atlantic would be about 18 cts. per bushel, and, if admitted into England duty free, it could be ground into meal or flour at a cost of  $6\frac{3}{4}$  cts. more, making in all 75 cts., or three quarters of a dollar. Allowing, in addition to this, 25 cts. for retail profits, the article could be sold at one dollar a bushel in the manufacturing towns, or about four shillings and fourpence sterling.

Now the bushel weighs at least fifty-eight pounds, which, at four and fourpence, is less than one penny sterling per pound; and as there would be a gain to the shipper of the difference of exchange, there can be no hazard in saying that the article would be always on sale at that price.

Admitting then, that Maize, ground into meal and fitted for family use, can be sold at one penny per pound in the manufacturing districts, let us see the extent of the benefits to be derived from it.

As an article of general domestic use it has no equal, where economy is an object to be kept in view. It is easily converted into puddings, cakes, rolls, and bread; but the cheapest mode of using it—that is to say, the way in which it will go the farthest—is, in the form of hasty pudding; and in this manner, when properly cooked, its advantages as a cheap food are surprising. To establish this fact, I made the following experiment:—

I carefully weighed out one pound of the meal and gave it to a person who understood the mode of cooking it. In the course of boiling, it absorbed about *five pints* of water, which was added at intervals until the process was complete. The bulk was again weighed and gave as a result *four pounds and a half*. Such are the powers of expansion possessed by this kind of grain. On dividing the mass into portions, it was found to fill *four soup plates* of the ordinary size, and with the addition of a little milk and sugar, gave a plentiful breakfast to four servants and children.

According to this experiment, one pound of Maize flour, which cost one penny, would give a breakfast to *four persons*, at one far-

thing each ; and if we add to this another farthing for milk, sugar, or butter, the breakfast would cost *one halfpenny* each, and would be an ample meal for females and children. Thousands of working men, indeed, have gone to their daily labour during the past winter with a much more scanty breakfast.

But it is not for breakfast alone that this preparation is useful ; it is equally adapted for the other meals, particularly that of supper ; and it is found from daily experience in all the rural districts of this country, that persons, instead of becoming tired of the article become daily more attached to it—thus giving a physical illustration of Shakspeare's remark, that “increase of appetite grows by what it feeds on.”

When, during the last war with the United States, I was intrusted with charge of the Prison Hospital at Melville Island, near Halifax, the Depot was crowded with American soldiers who had been captured in Canada, and sent round to Nova Scotia for safe custody. Many of these poor men were afflicted with fevers and other diseases—and being mostly from the northern parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania, where they had been accustomed to Indian Corn from their childhood—their cry for “*mush and milk*” was incessant. As no such article was issued in the Prison Hospital allowance, their lamentations took the tone of despair. At length, moved by their complaints, I applied to the contractor to send a supply of Indian corn meal, and, employing one of the healthy prisoners to prepare the article properly, I soon placed before the poor sufferers the object of their longings. I mention this fact to show how fond people become of this article of food by constant use.

The palatable auxiliaries of this preparation of the Maize—I mean the *hasty pudding*, or *mush*, as it is termed in the United States—are sugar, molasses or treacle, and butter ; but the best and most healthful by far is *milk*, a small quantity of which gives it a most agreeable flavour, and renders it highly digestible and nutritious.

The other preparations, such as hominy, cakes, puddings, and bread, are constantly resorted to by all economists in the country ; wheaten bread, indeed, with an addition of one third corn meal is decidedly improved by it, and obtains the preference at the tables of almost all American families. It acquires by this addition a sweetness in flavour, and a freshness that we in vain look for in bread made entirely of wheat.

Having said thus much as to the qualities, use, and cost of this article, I shall conclude by making the following deductions and observations.

1st. That the labouring classes and the poor of Great Britain require *a cheaper article of food than wheaten bread.*

2nd. That although wheat contains a larger portion of *gluten*, or the nutritive ingredient, *bulk* is necessary, not only to satisfy the craving of hunger, but to promote digestion by the "stimulus of distension," which bulk alone can give.

3rd. That the craving of hunger being removed or alleviated by the quantity taken, the mind is more at ease; the mental irritability consequent upon hunger is assuaged, and man goes to his labour with cheerfulness and vivacity, becoming a more peaceful citizen and perhaps a better man.

4th. That Maize possesses a great superiority over rye, barley, oatmeal, or potatoes—not that it contains a greater quantity of *gluten*, but that its constituent parts are better proportioned, and consequently make a better article of food.

5th. That, admitted into England duty free, it would be a cheaper article of food than any of those above named, besides being vastly superior to them in nutritive and healthful properties.

6th. That it can be obtained in any quantities from all parts of the United States, and particularly from the middle and Southern States, on the Atlantic seaboard—as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, whose proximity to the sea and ports of shipment give them great advantages by saving inland conveyance. The whole valley of the Mississippi also yields it in abundance.

7th. That the people of all parts of the United States are consumers of British manufactures; for in spite of national asperities, they adopt the habits, tastes, fashions, and dress of their English ancestors. This, I think, is a natural feeling in the human breast, for I never yet knew a son who was offended by being told that he resembled his parent. The imported grain then would be paid for in the products of British industry.

8th. That the rapidly increasing population and limited superficial surface of the British isles, will speedily render a foreign supply of grain necessary even in the most productive seasons—and consequently a reduction of duties must ensue; it is therefore advantageous to the agricultural interests, as land is becoming so valuable, to reserve as much of the soil of England as possible for the cultivation of wheat and more valuable products; and nothing will tend to promote this object more than the introduction of a copious supply of cheaper farinaceous food for the poor and labouring classes.

9th. That by a process of this sort Great Britain will be able

to feed a much larger population upon her surface than at any former period.

10th. That by reason of an unusually long peace, France and other European countries have vastly augmented in population, which, added to their love of military glory, makes them formidable neighbours to England, and will enable them in the event of fresh hostilities to bring very large armies into the field—to place larger navies upon the Ocean, and to increase all their aggressive powers—rendering it imperative on her to retain as large a portion of her people at home as can be fed, leaving emigration to pursue its natural and steady course without being forced by artificial means, or rendered unavoidable from the scarcity of food. Whoever looks at the position of Great Britain at this time, and surveys the formidable nations that lie contiguous to her, and their vast means of annoyance, can hardly pronounce her safe with much less than a constant resident population of *thirty millions of souls*.

11th. That a new article of export from the United States will put forth another ligament for uniting the two countries—will enlist a large mass of the agricultural people of this country in favour of a continuance of peace, and tend to dissipate the clouds that now overshadow the pacific relations of England and America.

There might be some difficulty, perhaps, in the first instance, in inducing the people of England to adopt the use of the Maize; but this could be got over with some assistance from the press, especially if benevolent and patriotic individuals would set the example to the masses by explaining its value and using it themselves. Its own intrinsic merits would do the rest, and Cobbett's publications would furnish instructions for using and cooking the article in the many forms of which it is susceptible.

Perhaps the estimate of one farthing for sweetening the plate of pudding may be deemed too small when the article is prepared on a small scale; it may be so, but it will be found sufficient when made by the quantity. Prepared in large quantities and sold as soup is sold at soup houses, is the plan I have in view to meet the lowest point of economy, viz. *the halfpenny a plateful*, which will, according to the experiment described at page 12, contain one pound and two ounces of wholesome and nutritious food. What a blessing would such an article at such a price have proved to the starving multitudes in the manufacturing towns during the last winter! How many poor children would have been spared the pangs of hunger by it; and with what effect could

appeals have been made to the benevolent if they could have been told that a donation of five shillings would arrest the cravings of one hundred and twenty persons—that one shilling would do the same for twenty-four human beings, and sixpence for twelve !

I have fixed the first cost of the Maize at half a dollar per bushel ; but if the monetary system of the United States should collapse to the standard of 1820, the article would be even lower ; indeed it is questionable if the progress of *Temperance Societies* does not materially reduce its price, by throwing out of use those great consumers of Maize—the thousands of stills now in operation for the distillation of Whiskey and New England Rum ; in which case it might perhaps bear a small duty at the British Custom Houses.

If by the gradual and progressive introduction of this cheaper article of food, the surface of the British Isles can be made to sustain a larger population—wheat and other products of the soil will not be diminished in consumption, and consequently the farmer and landholder will not be injured, seeing that England has already her maximum of mouths for the acres that can be tilled to fill them. An augmented population causes an augmented consumption of excisable and dutiable articles, thereby replenishing the treasury and adding to the aggregate power of national strength. In this way only can England bear on her surface the necessary population, and raise an adequate revenue to enable her to keep pace with the daily increasing power and resources of the potent and perhaps hostile nations that surround her.

As the process of grinding, cooling, and drying the Maize is best understood in this country, it would be advisable in the first instance to use the meal prepared at the American Mills, especially as the expense of milling is here always covered by the tollage, or *one tenth* of the quantity ground.

Trusting that your Lordship may coincide with the views and opinions here expressed, and if so that your Lordship will use your high and justly acquired influence with her Majesty's Government, and the Legislature of Great Britain, to impress them with the same sentiments ; and earnestly hoping that these high authorities may see the wisdom of repealing all duty upon the article of food here mentioned, and thus confer happiness on millions of their fellow-creatures, is the fervent prayer of

Your Lordship's Obedient Servant,

New York, May 1, 1842.

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